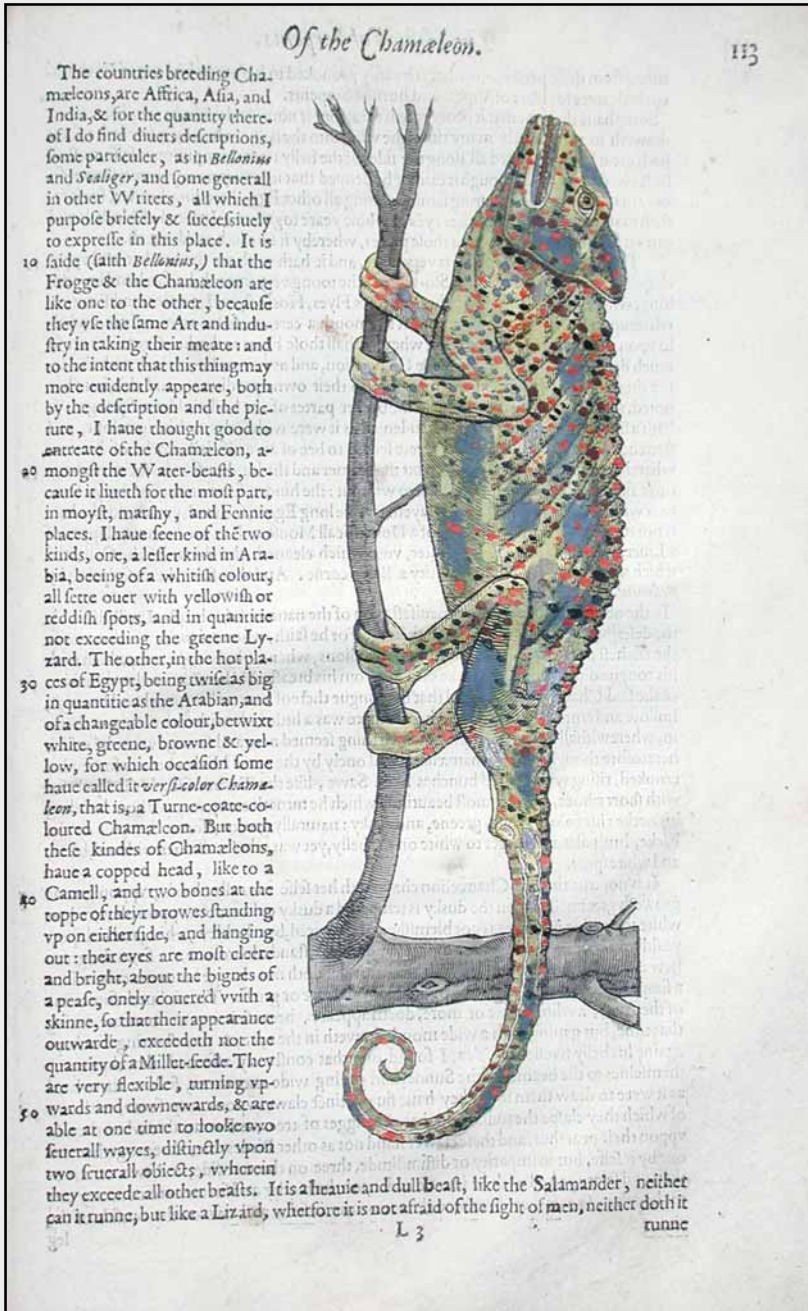


International Society for the History and Bibliography of Herpetology





International Society for the History and Bibliography of Herpetology

The **ISHBH** is a not-for-profit organization established to bring together individuals for whom the history and bibliography of herpetology is appealing and to promote the knowledge of related topics among members and the general public. Membership is open to anyone who shares the aims of the society.

Membership. The biennial fee for 2001-2002 is US \$30 (students US \$10, life membership US \$300). This fee includes a subscription to the society's biannual Newsletter and Bulletin (members can obtain back issues for \$7.50 each). Payment can be made with a personal check in USD or a money order. Members worldwide with access to Postal Giro can pay to PostGiro, Sweden, account 455120-6 with the equivalent amounts in any currency.

Members are encouraged to contribute with articles, news of meetings, hints on antiquarian trade, book reviews or participate in a literature exchange forum. The society organizes seminars, visits to libraries, museums, research stations, etc. in connection with herpetological meetings with international participation. The society works to facilitate informal contacts among members so that the members can meet, offer support in knowledge and transact exchanges of literature and ephemera.

Formal application for membership shall be directed to the chairperson and should be addressed: International Society for the History and Bibliography of Herpetology (ISHBH), Box 2123, SE-220 02 Lund, SWEDEN.

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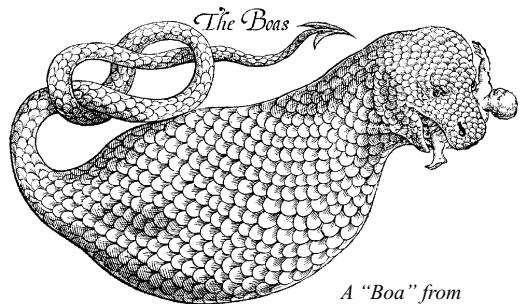
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Instructions for Authors

Authors submitting a manuscript do so on the understanding that the work has not been published before and is not being considered for publication elsewhere. All manuscripts are peer reviewed. Each issue of the Newsletter and Bulletin of the ISHBH is submitted to BIOSIS (U.K.) so that articles can be indexed for inclusion in the Zoological Record.

All manuscripts should be submitted in electronic form and preferably in Rich Text Format (*.rtf). If the manuscript is sent as a text file it should be accompanied by a hard copy to clarify formatting. We prefer to receive manuscripts as an e-mail attachment but manuscripts may also be sent by post on a 3 1/2 inch diskette. Include exact details on name(s) of the author(s) and file(s) submitted (diskettes should be labeled with this information), as well as contact information. The language of the Newsletter and Bulletin is English. British English or American English spelling and terminology may be used, but either one should be used consistently throughout the article. Consult the latest issue of the Newsletter and Bulletin for article format. The Editor reserves the right to adjust style to maintain uniformity.

Illustrations should also be submitted in electronic form. Considering the often delicate nature of illustrations in antiquarian books we feel that it is best that the owner of the work makes arrangements for scanning. However, you should contact the Editor first for advice. Color illustrations can be included but incur extra costs which will be at the author's expense. Illustration files can be sent on a CD-ROM, 100 Mb Zip cartridge, a 3 1/2 inch diskette or transferred over the Internet (contact the Editor first). Hard copies may in certain cases be submitted to the Editor for scanning but the Editor must be contacted first. The ISHBH cannot take responsibility for material sent by post.



A "Boa" from
Edward Topsell's (1608)
"The Historie of Serpents"

Society News

Message from the Chairperson

Zalec in Slovenia was indeed the place originally announced for the 2001 annual meeting of the society, to be held in conjunction with Societas Europaea Herpetologica's General meeting. Aaron Bauer and I went to the very congenial meeting although rather small. About 70 herpetologists participated in the meeting but there were just two more members from our society. A handful of people indeed signed up as new members and we made the society familiar to many more. We felt however that it would not be possible to form an adequate quorum for a business meeting. The meeting could instead appropriately be moved to the HL/SSAR meeting in Indianapolis, USA to be held just a fortnight later. Hence, 16 members in addition to all five officers gathered for the 2001 Business meeting on 29 July. The Treasurer's report was approved by acclamation and fruitful discussions on various activities were held.

The next planned formal gathering of the society will be in Kansas City, which will be the place for the annual meeting of ASIH/HL/SSAR for 2002. The presence of the society on the forthcoming World Congress of Herpetology in Sri Lanka will be only informal.

A singular history on the discipline of herpetology has never been written. However, numerous new contributions to the history or bibliography of herpetology come about all the time but they typically focus on a particular issue and are thus restricted in scope. Added together and over time they eventually form a good coverage of the historical development of herpetology. In this issue we find on pages 14-23 a compilation of the many contributions to the history and bibliography that have been published from 1998 to present, i.e. during the years that the society has been in existence. Needless to say most notable articles have been published in our own *Newsletter and Bulletin* and they are included in the compilation!

Many accounts published during the latter half of the 20th century became everlasting contributions to the history of herpetology, maybe because they were first in their particular theme. Not everybody who is seeking specific information or general knowledge in the subjects may know these older contributions. I therefore take the opportunity to highlight a few important contributions to the history of herpetology and the herpetological bibliography.

In E. L. Kessel's (ed.) *A Century of Progress in the Natural Sciences—1853-1953*, published by California Academy of Sciences in 1955, Karl P. Schmidt's contribution "*Herpetology*" is notable. This chapter is just one of several essays of allied disciplines and their history during 100 years. The herpetological activity was most intensive in Paris in the early and mid-19th century, manifested by the publication of the 10-volume *Erpétologie générale* by A. M. C. Duméril and G. Bibron (1834-1854), a major summary of the field of herpetology. This was the start of a new scientific approach and it is also with these individuals that Schmidt starts his history account. He treats virtually all the contemporary and later European researchers who shaped the history in herpetology during the period to mid-20th century and he does not forget the illustrators. Schmidt's treatment of George A. Boulenger is extensive. His next section is North America from the time of John Edwards Holbrook, which is to the middle of the 19th century. Schmidt goes on to tell about herpetology in the museums and zoological gardens and about a few remarkable amateurs. The last part of his 37-page long paper deals with historical developments in distinctive fields such as anatomy, venom and ecology.

A shorter but otherwise a similar introduction to the history of written herpetology is by Angus Bellairs with his two-volume book (1969) *The Life of Reptiles*, specifically Chapter 1, *The Growth of Knowledge*. The epochs up to the center of the 19th century are merely skimmed

and Bellairs starts from then on with a particular emphasis on the books on anatomy and related subjects. The text is 16 pages long.

Kenneth R. Porter provides an equivalent introduction in his book (1972) *Herpetology* starting from John Ray's (1693) *Synopsis Methodica*... and continuing to the latest books of the time. Porter's part on the history of herpetology is 16 pages long.

The foremost narrative with a wide-ranging scope in providing an introduction to the history of herpetology and the publications is Kraig Adler's (1986) *Collecting Antiquarian Books on Amphibians and Reptiles*. This article covers the period from the time of the first printed books on snakes in the early 16th century up to the end of the 19th century. It is actually produced with due consideration also to the buying and selling of antiquarian books as it appeared in a periodical for the book trade, *Bookman's Weekly*. This makes it even more interesting for the collector as it affords reflections on the book marketplace that you normally will not find in any other sketch of a bibliographical history. The readership of *Bookman's Weekly* is mainly American so Adler felt obliged to declare in the introduction that he will emphasize books of interest to American readers. Incidentally he does not confine himself accordingly as he treats the books with equal intensity and thoroughness regardless of their origin. I already had an embryonic interest in the history of herpetology but it was not until I read this paper for the first time that I became fully acquainted with the authors and the books that have formed the early history of herpetology. It forms a checklist for the world of fine antiquarian books just in the same way a good field guide of amphibians and reptiles does for the natural world. Donald E. Hahn, a book trader in Arizona, USA wrote a companion article on the focal books that have appeared during the 20th century. A reprint of the two articles can be obtained gratis from Kraig Adler.

An extensive collection of the best color illustrations from the classics in herpetology occurs in a noteworthy book by Hiroshi Aramata (1990) *Atlas Anima – Amphibia and Reptilia*. Mr. Aramata is a popular writer in Japan but also a collector of the classic works on natural history. He has produced a five-volume series covering his collection of illustrated pre-1900 books on natural history and volume three is dedicated fully to herpetology. The text is in Japanese but it is nonetheless a classic for all the color illustrations (I counted 172 plates each with usually two to four animals) and drawings in black-and-white. There is an index in English of the 48 books that have one of more animals represented in the atlas.

The contribution that comes closest to being a singular history is *Herpetologists of the Past* by Kraig Adler (1989). It consists of biographies of 152 individuals, all deceased, who have advanced the study of herpetology. For the vast majority there are portraits and signatures accompanying the biographic descriptions, which are arranged in a chronological order. Adler brings up many references to books and articles that deal with the history of herpetology in his bibliography, which there is not space to reiterate in this essay.

Eric T. B. Francis in his *The Anatomy of the Salamander* (1934) lets his tutor, F. J. Cole, give an introduction on the historical development of the special discipline that covers 30 pages. Most of the early authors describing the caudates had difficulties in separating salamanders and newts so the historic account is quite useful also for the *Triton* minded reader. We learn that P. Belon already 1553 described the viviparous nature of the European salamanders. The original book by Francis is scarce but an SSAR reprint is forthcoming.

There are a few legendary historical descriptions or listings of books with regional scope. No book collector can resist the two-volume account by Paulo E. Vanzolini (1977-1978) *An annotated bibliography of the land and fresh-water reptiles*

of *South America* (1958-1975). Vanzolini begins with Linnaeus' 10th edition of *Systema naturae* 1758. Many of the European accounts on herpetology describe collections that included South American faunal elements and, thus, Vanzolini lists several of the classical general accounts of the 18th and 19th centuries. The author gives quite extensive annotations including assessments of the quality. The whole bibliography is arranged by year of publication but the last volume also contains a useful index.

Bibliographic listing of books on the French fauna is made by Georges H. Parent (1982) *Bibliographie de l'herpetofaune française*. The voluminous account, albeit basic in layout, is arranged in alphabetical order and provides useful references for the book collector. There is also a similar but smaller account by the same author (1987) on the books from Belgium and Luxembourg.

Stephen Spawls' (1991) paper *Popular African Herpetological Literature – A personal view* appeared in the *Journal of the Herpetological Association of Africa*. Spawls takes the reader on a bibliographic ride through the continent starting in South Africa, going along the east coast up to north Africa and then south down the west side stopping along the way to tell about the books that cover each region and their writers. Spawls has lived in many parts of Africa and shares his experiences from many personal acquaintances. The bibliography is extensive and useful but with two exceptions no title is older than 100 years.

North American herpetological history is thoroughly described in another publication by Kraig Adler (1979) *A Brief History of Herpetology in North America before 1900*. The history is divided into two essays, one on the eastern part and one on the western.

Albert H. Wright's (1949) *Scientific and Popular Writers on American Snakes (1517 - 1944)* *A Check List and Short Biography* gives concise biographic facts on about 1250 authors

who published anything on American Snakes in the period. A listing of the books that the same authors wrote appears in his and his wife's private publication (1962) *Handbook of Snakes of the United States and Canada, volume III, Bibliography*, which SSAR reprinted 1979. This book is arranged chronologically in three sections: (i) General works, (ii) Selected literature and ecological classifications and (iii) State and Province lists. There are on the other hand no annotations.

Lars Gabriel Andersson published in 1913 a paper *Results of Dr. E. Mjöberg's Swedish Scientific Expeditions to Australia 1910–1913. IV. Batrachians*, which includes a chapter titled *A review of the frogs, described from the Australian continent*. This is an extensive treatise describing not only what local authors produced on herpetology but also the publications by European contributors such as G. Shaw, J. E. Gray, J. J. Tschudi, W. Peters, and F. Steindachner that deal with the Australian fauna.

Extensive and informative is *History of herpetological studies in China*, a long chapter in Er-mi Zhao and Kraig Adler (1993) *Herpetology of China*. There cannot be very much left in China's herpetological history to know about!

Richard Wahlgren, Oct. 23, 2001

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About the cover

The Mediterranean Chameleon *Chamaeleo chamaeleon* (Linn.) on this issue's frontispiece is perhaps familiar to many readers as a colored version of the official logo of the World Congress of Herpetology. The WCH logo was taken from Conrad Gessner (1516-1565) *Historia Animalium...* published in Zurich 1554. Gessner drew upon ancient as well as modern writers but began the era of modern zoology and illustrations with his five large volumes on animals that

were published between 1551 and 1587. His works influenced other authors of the period who produced comparable encyclopedias on zoology or undertook translations of Gessner's works.

The reproduced illustration on the cover is taken, however, from Edward Topsell (1572-1638) *The Historie of Serpents. Or, The second Booke of living Creatures...* that was published

1608 in London. Actual size of the full page is 190 x 322 mm, while the image is 235 mm tall. The chapter *Of the chamæleon* covers the pages 112-119. A reprint was published by Theatrum Orbis Terrarum, Amsterdam, in 1973.

Topsell's first book, published in 1607, is titled *The Historie of Foure-Footed Beastes* and deals solely with mammals. It is largely a translation of Gessner and much of *The Historie of Serpents...* is based on Gessner. This particular woodcut is copied from Gessner without any variation. Topsell did not show much originality and appropriate credit is given to Gessner on the title page of the first book and other authors are frequently cited in the text. It is indeed the first book on reptiles and amphibians in English. Zoology at this time however was not an advanced discipline. Beliefs about animals that we now consider bizarre were commonly accepted and although Gessner and Topsell attempted to separate truth from fiction they had understandable difficulties. Colored copies of Gessner's works are seldom reported, but they do exist. Illustrations of Gessner's woodcuts in color are reproduced in Hiroshi Aramata *Atlas Anima*, volume three (Tokyo, 1990).

The chameleon on the cover of this issue is from a volume with both of Topsell's books bound together. The woodcut illustrations are colored throughout in the first book while just a few in the second are colored including the chameleon. I have not seen any other copies of Topsell's books being described as colored. Dr. Casey Wood stated in his bibliography *An Introduction to the Literature of Vertebrate Zoology* (London, 1931:599): "This book was the great picture book of the seventeenth century and is consequently nearly always tattered, dog-eared and imperfect." It is of course possible that the coloring of the illustrations is an imperfection rendered from endeavors by any of the many owners during nearly 400 years. A cutting from an antiquarian catalogue, apparently not too recent, is inserted on the inside cover with a description of the very book that says: "The hand-colouring of the figures (in the first item)

is carefully done and all the indications are that it is contemporary with the book. Coloured copies are in our experience most unusual." The striking coloring, although quite handsome is not really natural of the Mediterranean Chameleon. The animal has certainly an arsenal of colors available but red spots and blue patches have never been reported. The chameleon in Gessner (1554) that is reproduced in *Atlas Anima*, vol. 3 (1990:140-141) is colored uniform brown with lips in red.

It always gapes, turning in and out that breath
Whereon it feedes : and often changeth hew:
Now blacke and greene, and pale, and other
colours hath,
But red and white Chamæliions do eschew:
So Clawbackes feede on vulgar breath as bread,
With open mouth deuouring fame and right,
Princes, blacke-vices praise, but vertues dread,
Designed in nature by colours red and white.

"Alciatus", translated by Topsell, page 116. Andres Alciati (1492 - 1550) was a lawyer from Milan who created the first emblem book *Emblematum liber*. It is a collection of 212 Latin emblem poems, each consisting of a motto (a proverb or other short enigmatic expression),



a picture, and an epigrammatic text. It was first published in 1531. Emblem 53, "Against flatterers" is about the chameleon and has a handsome woodcut. Source: the web site of Memorial University of Newfoundland: <http://www.mun.ca/alciato/e053.html>.

Richard Wahlgren

Other News

Historical papers and the EMBL Reptile Database

Beginning in early 2001, the European Molecular Biology Laboratory Reptile Database has started to offer historical reptile papers online. As a pilot project, all reptile papers from the *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia* (1841-1899) have been scanned and posted as pdf files on the web. By December, all reptile papers from the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (pre-1900) will have been converted to pdf files. However, due to the significant cost of this process the papers will be sold on CD only for the time being. The CD will be available in December 2001 and contain all 400+ reptile articles from the pre-1900-Annals as pdf files in addition to the EMBL Reptile Database which indexes all papers in an easily searchable application. The CD is US\$/Euro 49.

The Database will publish more historical material on its website and on CD. For that purpose we are looking for volunteers who are willing to

donate older herpetological literature or help with scanning, image processing, and indexing.

More information is available at <http://www.reptile-database.org> or from Peter Uetz, Institut für Genetik, Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe, PO Box 3640, D-76021 Karlsruhe, Germany, peter.uetz@itg.fzk.de

Peter Uetz

Antiquarian Book Dealer Changes Address

The venerable Wheldon & Wesley, Ltd., which has been in business since 1840, has recently moved. Their new address is:

Wheldon & Wesley, Ltd., Natural History Books (Antiquarian & out of print - Member ABA & ILAB), 10 Church Square, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. LU7 1AE, England, U.K., Tel: +441525 850550, Fax: +441525 850700, wheldwes@dircon.co.uk, <http://www.users.dircon.co.uk/~wheldwes>

Book Reviews

A History of Herpetology at the American Museum of Natural History, by Charles W. Myers. Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History, No. 252, 232 pages, 64 figures, 3 tables, and 4 appendices. May 18, 2000. American Museum of Natural History Library, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024, USA (scipubs@amnh.org). US \$18.50.

WILLIAM E. DUELLMAN

Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center,
The University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045, USA

Founded in 1869, the American Museum of Natural History has undergone a tremendous growth in scientific collections, exhibits, and prestige to become one of the premier institutions of its kind in the world. The Department of Ichthyology and Herpetology was established in 1909 with three ichthyologists and one herpetologist, Mary C. Dickerson, who became head of the newly established Department of Herpetology in 1920.

For many years, Charles W. Myers researched archives in the American Museum and in other institutions, including personal correspondence, publications, archival and published reports, newspaper and magazine articles, and even payroll and hospital records for relevant information. Myers has successfully woven all aspects of the history of the museum that relate to herpetology into a highly readable story, sometimes flowing like a novel, depicting personali-

ties and intrigue, triumph and tragedy, as well as fact versus fiction. All of his sources are cited in the text or in detail in 246 end notes.

Following a brief introduction, Myers presents a sympathetic account of the Mary C. Dickerson's unselfish endeavors to make herpetology an important part of the museum. Her perspicacity is revealed by documenting her establishment of the outstanding herpetological library (details in Appendix 1) and the hiring of highly capable assistants to undertake field exploration and systematic studies. Although she became seriously ill and died in a mental institution at the age of 57, she left a legacy of curation, exhibits, and great herpetologists that she had hired as assistants - Emmett R. Dunn, Karl P. Schmidt, Gladwyn K. Noble, and Charles L. Camp. Intriguing prose is devoted to the financial woes, field studies, curatorial work, and academic pursuits of these "assistants" and to Clifford Pope, who joined the museum after Dickerson's death. Especially interesting are the interactions of Dunn and Noble with Thomas Barbour at Harvard University and of Camp and Noble with William K. Gregory at Columbia University. Justifiable appreciation is devoted to Noble's experimental work, which set the stage for many "modern" approaches in herpetology. Likewise, Charles M. Bogert's many contributions to curation, research, and field studies are carefully presented. Lastly, advances made during the era of Richard G.

Zweifel (including Myers and Charles J. Cole as curators) are documented.

Myers's treatise includes the history of exhibits, curatorial practices, collection growth, and expeditions. The latter is contained in 44 pages of fascinating accounts of financial and personnel hardships, accomplishments, and innovations. These include departmental and the major multidisciplinary expeditions from 1912 through 1995, although various aspects of field work also are mentioned in the discussions of individual scientists. Three appendices include the bibliographies of M. C. Dickerson, G. K. Noble, and R. G. Zweifel; unfortunately, Myers did not include his own bibliography. In a final chapter, "End of an Era," Myers provides some nostalgic reflections on the changes from major interdisciplinary expeditions to more specific field trips, efficiency of modern transportation to remote parts of the world, and the permit bureaucracy.

Natural history museums are archival storage houses. Collections and their associated data and libraries are used by scientists, and exhibits are viewed by the public; however, the documentation of the origins of specimens and the personnel who were responsible for them to often is neglected. Charles W. Myers has made a significant contribution to the history of herpetology; his publication sets a high standard that hopefully will be followed by similar treatises on the history of other major institutions.

Slithy Toves: Illustrated Classic Herpetological Books at the University of Kansas in Pictures and Conversations

by Sally Haines. 2000. SSAR, Ithaca, New York, USA.
vii + 184 pp. ISBN 0-916984-53-2. US \$60.00 stiff wrappers.

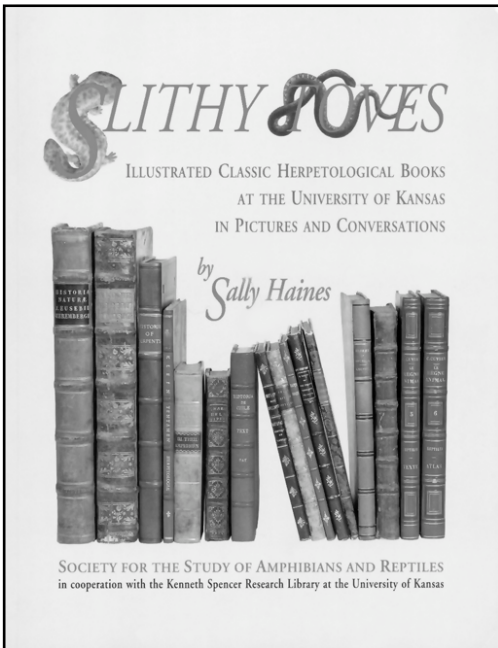
JOHN J. MORIARTY

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Slithy Toves is the published version of the Spencer Research Library exhibit put together for the 1996 SSAR Conference at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. This publication is mainly an exhibit guide containing selected illustrations from the 69 books displayed and the accompanying display

text. The books included in the exhibit covered 425 years from Pliny the Elder in 1565 to Conant and Collins in 1991.

There are several sections added to the book that were not part of the exhibit. A section on Myth versus Reality: the Challenges of Illus-



Cover of Sally Haines' "*Slithy Toves: Illustrated classic herpetological books at the University of Kansas in pictures and conversations*" (2000).

trating Amphibians and Reptiles, by Kraig Adler, provides an excellent explanation on the changes in book illustrations over the centuries. It shows that newer techniques are not always better. Adler adds a historical background to many of the books by providing information about the authors, expeditions and illustrators. The reference section has a listing of all the illustrated herp books in the library collection, including over 150 titles not in the exhibit. The reference section also provides a chronological listing of all the works in the collection starting with *Hortus sanitatis* from 1517. The more than fifty titles pre-Linnaean shows the depth of this collection.

The color reproduction throughout the book is excellent. Seeing the all color plates is almost as

good as seeing the exhibit. The heavy weight art paper adds to the quality of the book. I would have been glad to pay a little more to have had the choice of a clothbound book, especially for a classic such as this. The cover design is very nice, but the collector in me likes hardbound books.

The one addition I would have liked to see in the book would be an expanded citation for each book. The citations do not give the number of pages or plates in the books. Considering this is a book about illustrations it would be nice to know how many additional illustrations were in the book and whether or not they were colored. A few of the descriptions, such as Andrew Smith's *Illustrations of the Zoology of South Africa* (Slithy Toves: 33), mention the number of plates, but most do not. It would also be nice if the citation included the size of the book. Some of the plates have been enlarged or reduced for this publication without mention of the original size. John Fayrer's *Thanatophidia of India* (Slithy Toves: 38) is an example of a double tall folio sized plate being reduced to a quarto plate. Those who have seen the original will know how impressive it really is, while those who have not seen the book will not realize the uniqueness of the book without knowing the original size.

Slithy Toves works great as an exhibit catalog. To find out the details of the books covered in the Slithy Toves I did get "curiouser and curiouser", by checking other references and book catalogs, which was the intention of the author. This book has been added to my collection as my ~~want~~ wish list, since many of the titles are extremely scarce and when available very expensive. I will have to visit them through a regular perusal of Slithy Toves. I would recommend the book to anyone who is interested in antiquarian herpetological books or natural history illustration.

On the Correct Date of Description of *Amphisbaena scutigera* Hemprich and *A. rufa* Hemprich

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The dating of older systematic works in herpetology is often problematic and consequently a particular taxon name may be cited with different year attributions by different later authors. Such problems are especially acute in the case of book length works published in separate parts over a period of several years. Similar problems, however, may also plague periodicals. A common problem of dating involves those journals published in separate parts or issues but generally available to most researchers only as whole bound volumes. Unfortunately, many libraries, both private and public, have not routinely retained the original wrappers associated with individual periodical issues. Rather, it was, and still is, common practice to bind together all parts of a given volume along with a common title page (often associated with a table of contents for the volume) issued with (or after) the final issue of the volume. In many instances, this title page bears the year date associated with the table of contents and/or the last issue of the volume. Thus, a journal volume issued in four parts in April 1840, July 1840, October 1840, and January 1841 might be bound together with a single title page bearing the date 1841. As a consequence, it is common, even for papers published in an issue early in a given year, to become associated with the date of the last part of the same volume published the following calendar year.

There are three major sources of information that can be used to clarify periodical dating. The most reliable is direct evidence from the publisher about date of publication, but this is rarely available for older works (e.g. Duncan 1937). Another comes from the journal itself. Most often a year, month, or, very rarely, specific date, is printed on the issue wrappers. This printed date may or may not be accurate, but is certainly more reliable than that on the volume title page

(Smith 1942; Bauer et al. 1995). Finally, dates of receipt of the published journal by institutions or societies provide absolute evidence of the latest date that a particular work was published (e.g., Nolan 1913), but these may still be many months off due to delays in delivery (especially internationally), or irregularities in the record keeping of the recipient libraries (Smith 1942).

Using one or more of these sources of information, the correct dating of some journals of relevance for systematic herpetology has been established. These include the publications of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (Nolan 1913), the *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* (Duncan 1937), *La Naturelleza* (Smith 1942), and the *Monatsberichte der Preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin* (Bauer et al. 1995). For those journals in which volumes correspond to an annual cycle, virtually all papers were actually published either in the year indicated by volume title pages or in the preceding year.

In some instances, however, a single journal volume may consist of separate parts issued over a longer period. This results in a title page that may have been published and dated much later than earlier parts of the volume. A case in point is that of a short paper by Friedrich Wilhelm Hemprich (1796-1825) in which two new species of amphisbaenians are described. Hemprich is most well-known for his expedition to the Middle East and North Africa with Ehrenberg (see Bauer 2000). Prior to the expedition, on which he died, Hemprich was associated with the Zoological Museum at the Berliner Universität (from 1828 the Wilhelm-Friedrichs-Universität zu Berlin and from 1946 the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) where he was first a student of and then an assistant to the

director, Martin Hinrich Lichtenstein. Hemprich's special interest was in limbless reptiles and he published or prepared manuscripts for several works dealing with snakes, caecilians, and amphisbaenians based on material in the Berlin collection. In his paper on amphisbaenians (1820a) he described two new species, *Amphisbaena scutigera* [= *Leposternon scutigerum*] and *Amphisbaena rufa* [= *Blanus cinereus*].

The date of description of these two amphisbaenids has been variously reported as 1820 or 1829. Earlier synoptic works, such as those by Duméril and Bibron (1839) and Gray (1845), attributed the description of *A. scutigera* to Hemprich 1820. However, more recent and widely available works cite the later date. For example, Boulenger (1885) cited Hemprich 1829 as did Gans (1967, 1971), Peters and Donoso-Barros (1970), and Vanzolini (1977). This dating has subsequently been accepted by other workers (Gans et al. 1997; Bauer 2000). References to *A. rufus* are less frequent, as the name has long been considered a junior synonym of *Blanus cinereus*. When cited, however, it too is usually ascribed a date of 1829 (e.g., Mertens and Wermuth 1960; López Martínez 1997). The only 20th Century references to the 1820 date that I could locate for either name were those of Sherborn (1930a,b).

The dating of Hemprich's paper was explicitly discussed by Gans (1971) who noted that it was presented at the 1817 meeting of the Gesellschaft naturforschender Freunde zu Berlin, but that the volume of the *Verhandlungen* containing the paper was not published until 1829. Based on this interpretation, Hemprich's (1820b) use of the name *A. scutigera* without comment in his 1820 textbook of zoology was regarded by Gans (1971) as a *nomen nudum*. This was repeated by Gans et al. (1997) and subsequently by Bauer (2000). This information appears to be based on information obtained from a bound volume of the journal. The title page of volume 1 of the *Verhandlungen*, containing Hemprich's paper, is dated 1829 and, in the only copy I have examined of the bound journal (in the Museum für Naturkunde, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), there are no wrappers for the separate parts

of the journal and no indications of the dates associated with particular papers.

Records of the Gesellschaft naturforschender Freunde zu Berlin indicate that the *Verhandlungen der Gesellschaft naturforschender Freunde zu Berlin*, the sixth periodical series published by this society, was published in only a single Band (volume) of six Stücke (parts). The printed dates of these parts are 1819, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1824, and 1829 (Becker 1973). I recently obtained a separate copy of the Erster Band, Zweites Stück of the *Verhandlungen*. This is dated "Berlin 1820." Hemprich's paper is the last of six presented in this issue. I find no evidence to suggest that the paper was presented in 1817. Rather, the top of the first page of the article has the running head "des Jahres 1817," but this is merely the continuation of the running head for the previous paper, "Über die Witterung des Jahres 1817," which ends on the same page as Hemprich's paper begins. Papers appearing earlier in the same issue, such as that by Ehrenberg (*Syzygites eine neue Schimmeltattung nebst Beobachtungen über sichtbare Bewegung in Schimmeln*) explicitly mention events of 1818.

All evidence thus indicates that *Amphisbaena rufa* and *A. scutigera* should be attributed to Hemprich (1820a). Although this change from the prevailing dating does not affect the application of names, it does imply that *scutigerum* is the oldest validly described taxon currently assigned to the genus *Leposternon* and it suggests that Hemprich's use of the name *A. scutigera* in his textbook *Grundriß der Naturgeschichte* (1820b) may well have postdated the description of the species and thus would not be a *nomen nudum*.

In some cases miscitations of publication year are "legitimate" in that the offending authors have examined the works in question and have (albeit perhaps naively) accepted the information printed therein (e.g., volume title page dates) at face value. In other cases, miscitations are perpetuated by authors who, either because of difficulty of access, or lack of effort, do not actually examine older or more obscure original descriptions, but instead rely on secondary

citations obtained from intermediary sources, such as major revisionary works, species lists, or catalogues. References to an 1829 date for Hemprich's amphisbaenid paper undoubtedly reflect both types of miscitations. The first type may be unavoidable, but the second is inexcusable. The difficulty in obtaining information about the correct dating of many early periodicals makes it impractical to expect all users of such literature to undertake ancillary bibliographic studies; it seems eminently reasonable, however, to expect that herpetologists citing these papers should at least examine them.

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Recent Literature on the History and Bibliography of Herpetology: 1

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This survey covers contributions in periodicals and books primarily from January 1998 to August 2001 but a few more notable entries from 1997 have been included.

The scope is quite wide and includes "history" also in a modern designation inasmuch that anything published on people and institutions that shape or have shaped the development of herpetology in a broad scientific concept have been included. Obituaries in herpetological publications have been cited separately as have book reviews on literature concerning the history of herpetology. Popular periodicals usually focused on husbandry and related topics have not been reviewed systematically.

In addition to papers dealing with historical aspects of herpetology we have also included herpetological books that have at least some historical component, even if this is not focus of the publication. Although we have made every effort to include all relevant publications, we make no claims as to the completeness of this bibliography, especially with regard to books or to relevant biographical papers that may have appeared in journals not specialising in herpetology. Some papers of a non-herpetological nature, but dealing with naturalists or publications of herpetological significance (chiefly from the *Archives of Natural History*) have, however, been included. We welcome corrections and additions to this list, which may be sent to any of the compilers at the physical or electronic mail addresses listed.

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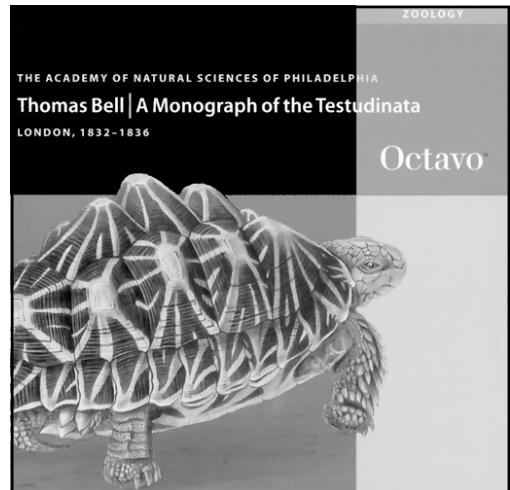
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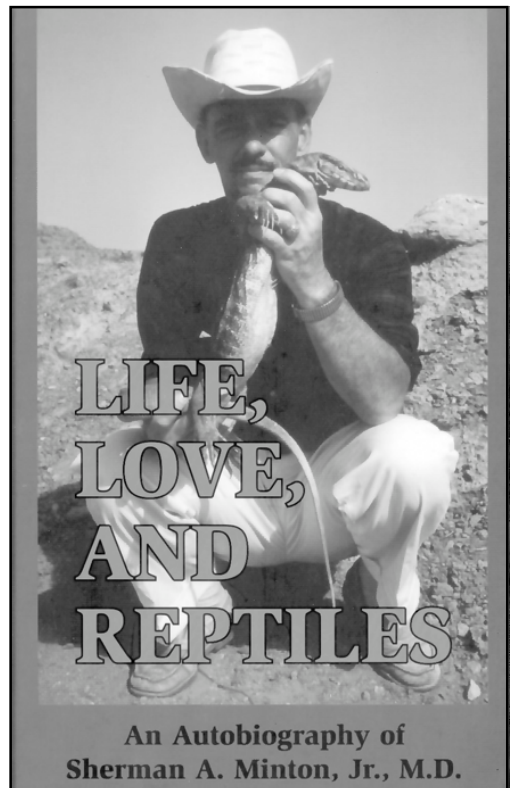
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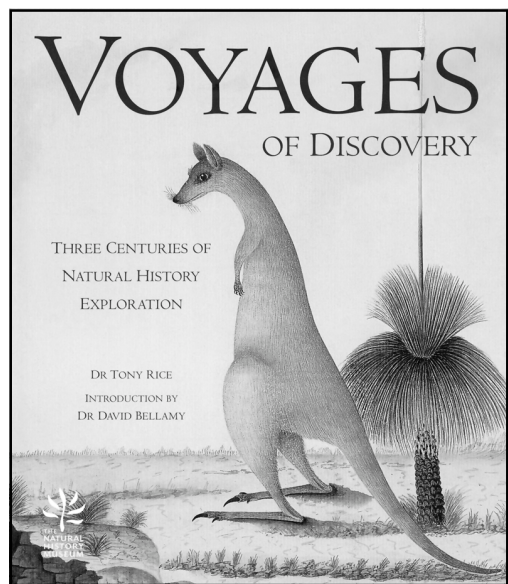
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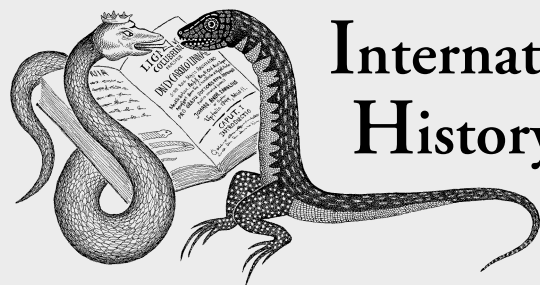
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